

PRESIDENT HARDING CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Many Messages of Congratulation Are Received at White House.

[By Associated Press.]
WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—President Harding celebrated his 56th birthday quietly at the White House, no special program having been arranged for the occasion. Scores of congratulatory letters and telegrams were received during the day from friends throughout this country, and many from abroad.

The President refused to observe the day as a holiday, arriving at the executive office at the usual hour. The engagement list for the day was even longer than usual, containing the names of a number of members of Congress.

One of the first congratulatory messages to be received by the President was from King George, of England.

Many messages of congratulations were received by the President from this country and abroad. King George, of Great Britain, cabled:

"On the occasion of your birthday, Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to offer to you my warmest wishes for your health, happiness and to assure you of my cordial friendship and esteem."

The good wishes of Italy and of the Italian delegation to the armistice conference were conveyed in the following message from Ambassador Ricci, who is one of the delegates:

"Allow me to express to you my congratulations upon your birthday. Altogether with my colleagues of the Italian delegation, Senators Schenker and Albertini, I interpret the feelings of my countrymen when I assure you of the respectful regard of the Italian people."

FORM STATE-WIDE BODY TO AID JEWS

Plans Will Be Permitted at Meeting Called for Sunday Noon in Jefferson Club.

A meeting of representative Jews from forty-six cities and towns in Virginia has been called for Sunday noon, at the Jefferson Club here, by Rabbi Edward N. Calisch, of Richmond, and Max Levy, of Norfolk, State chairman of the American Jewish Relief Committee. The meeting will form a State-wide organization to raise Virginia's quota of the \$10,000,000 fund being gathered by the American Jewish relief committee for the relief of hundreds of thousands of destitute Jews in Russia and Eastern Europe. David A. Brown, a prominent business man, who is chairman of the money-raising appeal, will address the gathering, and Felix M. Warburg, a New York banker, has been invited to attend.

The following Richmonders will take a prominent part in the campaign: A. L. Straus, S. O. Linder, E. H. Gunst, Lewis L. Strauss, H. S. Binewanger, Arthur Levy, Sam Rosendorf, Morton Thalheimer, Leon Wallenstein, W. H. Schwarzschild, L. Z. Morris, Leroy Cohen, Milton Strauss, Leon Nelson, and I. Kaufman.

BREAK RECORDS FOR DISPATCHING OF MAIL

200,000 Individual Pieces of First-Class Matter Handled in One Day By Richmond Office.

All records in the dispatching of first-class mail were broken last Monday by the Richmond postoffice, when 200,000 individual pieces of first-class mail alone were dispatched. Of this number, 108,000 pieces left Richmond on train No. 89 of the A. C. L.—Pennsylvania system, which leaves Broad Street Union Station at 8:15 P. M. for the North. This was in addition to many other thousands of pieces of second, third and fourth-class mail.

The next highest record for first-class mail leaving on one train at one time was made about three months ago, when 92,000 separate pieces were dispatched.

ONCE A CAPTAIN, SERGEANT MAY REGAIN COVETED BARS

Congress Is to Be Asked to Restore Rank of Samuel Woodfill, Who Won His Spurs at St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.

[By John Gleasoner, United News Staff Correspondent.]
WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—Samuel Woodfill, one-time captain and now sergeant, may become captain again. Woodfill is officially listed as the greatest of America's three foremost heroes of the world war. His personal daring stands out among all the brave exploits of the country's 4,000,000 soldiers.

He won his spurs as captain through valor and merit. He lost them through operation of the army system that decreed demotion of all "emergency officers."

Now there are those who hold that if Woodfill was capable of commanding men in the battles of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne, of rushing machine-gun teams alone, and by his intrepidity and the example he set to his men was able to turn defeat into victory, he should be entitled to his two silver bars in times of peace. So Woodfill may become a captain again, by act of Congress.

Senator Ernst, of Kentucky, has pending a bill which would authorize President Harding to make Woodfill a captain, and retire him the same day. This would give Woodfill the benefits of a retired captain's allowance.

"Sergeant Woodfill's record entitles him to that," argues Ernst. "His bravery was conspicuous. Personally he is capable. He won a captaincy through merit, and is entitled to the benefits of the rank."

The Senate Military Affairs Committee, however, is not favorably inclined to Ernst's bill. It would establish a dangerous precedent, committee members hold, and would open the way for a similar procedure in any number of other cases. An attempt to make Sergeant Alvin C. York a captain failed, it was pointed out.

"We can afford to make an exception in a few of the outstanding cases," is the answer of Ernst to this.

Urges Active List.
Representative Hoyt O. Woodruff, of Michigan, also would like to have Woodfill elevated to a captaincy. He is preparing a bill which would give the sergeant that rank, but on the active list. Then, because of his long service in the army, Woodfill would be able to retire when he wanted to, or at the pleasure of the War Department. The War Department, it is said, is more favorably inclined to this than toward Ernst's proposal.

Woodfill served under Woodruff at the Bordeaux encirclement camp, when the latter was a major in command there.

"Woodfill deserves the rank," said Woodruff. "He has the ability, as his record proves, and I'll do what I can to see that he gets it."

Ernst also personally knows Woodfill, because Woodfill was stationed for some time at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, near Lexington, where the Senator lives.

"People in that section are very much interested," said Ernst. "Woodfill came to Washington to serve as one of the body bearers for the unknown soldier, who is to be buried at Arlington Armistice Day."

Looks Like a Soldier.
He looks like a soldier, and has the carriage that distinguishes men of the old army. He is tall, slender, ruddy of cheek, and has a square-cut jaw in repose, he looks a bit stern, but he relaxes readily into an amiable grin or a laugh.

He will discuss his exploits in France readily enough—when enough questions are asked. He recounts them in quite a matter-of-fact way, with a shyness that is pleasing.

"I stalked Germans the same way I did big game in Alaska," said the sergeant. "The only difference was that the Germans don't have the advantage of scent, which animals possess."

Woodfill said that one day in Alaska he shot three bears, and on another day two bull moose. In France, his record was nineteen Germans in about an hour, when he charged three

machine-gun nests, one after the other.

It was this exploit which led General Pershing, in the report he will submit to the War Department, to mention Woodfill first among three heroes he named.

"With my company of 170 men I was sent to feel out the enemy strength and make a general reconnaissance," Woodfill said, explaining his feat. "The going in the Argonne was bad. Trees were scattered about in profusion, heavy scrubbery, depressions in the ground; in general, a fine place for defense and a bad place for attack."

"We knew the Germans were all around, but where? was the question. We soon found out. Machine guns and rifles stuttered and cracked. Some of our men fell before we could take cover. I gave my orders and then pitched in. The big game hunting instinct came back."

"I slid along the ground on my stomach, warning my way back by inch until I got to a vantage point. Then I just shot down the Germans at close range. I used a rifle and revolver. At one point I advanced with two men toward a machine-gun nest. I let the two boys in front while I worked around to the flank. I was within about ten yards of the outfit when the German crew, three privates and an officer, suddenly popped up. They made a rush at me and I shot down the privates and then the officer was at me. I tried to club him with my rifle, but he seized me and we struggled around for quite a while before I got out my pistol and killed him."

It Was Hot Work.
"I went ahead of my line when we bumped into the other nests. It was no easy vanishing lives. I figured that a man or a few men could get better results. And it worked out that way because my knowledge of woodcraft and hunting made it possible for me to get near the nests without being seen."

"It was hot work, but I never thought of the danger a bit during the entire scrap. I didn't have time. It was just a case of kill or get killed and I was lucky enough to do the killing."

"I might have hung up a higher record than the nineteen if a piece of shrapnel hadn't hit me in the thigh. It was not much of a wound, but they sent me to the rear."

It was after this that Woodfill has elevated to a captaincy, and received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the French Legion of Honor with palm, and the Croix de Danil of Montenegro. He had gone to France as a lieutenant.

Woodfill's reduction is explained in the records in the terse words, "emergency ended."

In the Army Twenty Years.
That meant he was an enlisted man again. He applied to take the examination for a commission, but his enlistment expired meantime, and he never was examined. But he re-enlisted.

He had been in the army twenty years, and he went back to it. His service includes all parts of this country, Alaska and the Islands. His discharges, at various enlistment periods all read—"character excellent; service honest and faithful."

Woodfill was entitled to retirement because of double time acquired through foreign service. Next year he can retire on 40 per cent of a sergeant's pay. He is 35 years old.

Woodfill married a year before he left about stories from Madison, Ind., his "home town," that he washes dishes for his wife.

"You'll cause trouble for all married men," said Captain Conter. "But I do wash dishes," Woodfill admitted with a blush.

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HANFORD MacNIDER, FAMOUS WAR HERO, IS NEW LEGION HEAD

(Continued From First Page.)

Bassard, and in which Mr. Harvey discussed the reasons why the United States entered the war. The original resolution was thrown out of the report on a roll call vote, and later a substitute was adopted. The substitute was written in less sharp terms and expressed the belief that the ambassador's remarks did not represent the true feeling for which the American Legion stands. It directed that a copy of the resolution be sent to President Harding.

Two resolutions bearing upon Federal compensation for soldiers were among the mass adopted. Both declared in favor of immediate compensation legislation. One submitted by the convention's legislative committee declared that "after careful consideration of all the arguments advanced in opposition to the measure, including the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury and the address of this President to Congress, we still firmly believe in the justice, fairness and immediate necessity of the adjusted compensation measure."

Asks Compensation Legislation.
The resolution declares that the "legion reaffirms its stand upon adjusted compensation and asks that the Congress of the United States pass this measure without further equivocation or delay."

The other compensation resolution adopted was offered by the resolutions committee. It asserted that the American Legion reiterates its position in favor of the adjusted compensation for discharged soldiers and deprecates the request of President Harding to delay passage by Congress of a measure for the same and the acquiescence of Congress in that request.

Besides the action relating to Colonel Harvey, the only part of the resolutions committee's report to meet with opposition from the floor was that relating to indorsement by the legion of the proposal that the chemical industry in this country be developed with a view to making chemical warfare a more important part of the nation's defenses. The resolution was laid on the table pending investigation of charges made on the floor that financial interests were seeking to influence the legion to indorse the proposal. Later the matter was referred to the national legislative committee.

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